Message Text

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TAGS: EAIR, AS

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: APPROACH TO GOA REGARDING CIVIL AVIATION

NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 63476

1. BECAUSE DEPT. FEARS INTRANSIGENT PROTECTIONIST
POSITIONS PRESENTED BY AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION DURING CIVIL
AVIATION TALKS IN FEBRUARY MAY BE INCORPORATED INTO
AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL AVIATION POLICY NOW UNDER REVIEW
BY THAT GOVERNMENT, DEPT. REQUESTS AMBASSADOR TO CALL ON
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT NIXON TO IMPRESS ON HIM NEED FOR GOA
TO ASSUME FLEXIBLE LIBERAL POSITION IN NEXT ROUND OF
BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. PURPOSE OF DEMARCHE WOULD BE TO
ENCOURAGE GOA NOT TO ADHERE TO ITS RESTRICTIONIST POLICIES
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OF PREDETERMINATION OF CAPACITY AND LIMITED DESIGNATION OF AIRLINES BUT TO ADOPT POLICIES WHICH WOULD EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT ENTRY OF CONTINENTAL AIRLINES INTO US-AUSTRALIAN MARKET.

2. AMBASSADOR SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS: USG IS CON-CERNED BY POSITION PRESENTED BY AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION DURING LAST ROUND OF CIVAIR TALKS. WE HOPE THAT SUCH PROTECTIONIST PRACTICES WILL NOT BE INCORPORATED INTO AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL AVIATION POLICIES NOW UNDER REVIEW AND WILL NOT CHARACTERIZE GOA POSITION IN SUCCEEDING ROUND OF TALKS. ENTRY OF CONTINENTAL DOES NOT REPRESENT INSURPERABLE COMPETITIVE PROBLEM FOR QANTAS. QANTAS IS SOUND MODERN AIRLINE, CAPABLE OF COMPETING WITH BEST OF INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES. IN SPITE OF PRESENCE OF SECOND US AIRLINE IN EARLY 1970'S, QANTAS OPERATIONS HAVE GROWN STEADILY OVER PAST DECADE. USG, UNDER CURRENT ADMINISTRATION, IS STRONGLY COMMITED TO AVIATION POLICY DESIGNED TO PROVIDE GREATEST POSSIBLE BENEFITS TO TRAVELERS AND SHIPPERS THROUGH EXPANSION OF COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITY RATHER THAN THROUGH ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS. (THESE POLICIES HAVE BEEN EMBODIED IN THE RECENT AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENTS WITH BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS.) USG BELIEVES ENTRY OF CONTINENTAL WOULD FURTHER THESE GOALS. HOWEVER, THESE NEW US POLICIES ARE DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO THE POSITION PRESENTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION AT THE LATEST TALKS. THEREFORE, USG HOPES THAT GOA WILL SERIOUSLY MOVE TOWARD POLICIES COMPATIBLE WITH THOSE SUPPORTED BY USG AND WHICH WOULD PERMIT A CONTINUED EXPANDING GROWTH IN OUR BILATERAL AVIATION RELATIONS.

3. AMBASSADOR WILL FIND MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF US LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION POLICIES IN REFTEL. COOPER

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